

Environmental Assessments

Formation of a Project Coordination Team at beginning of scoping process

A team is formed to facilitate communication between agencies concerned with the planning process and those concerned with the NEPA process.

Early Coordination

Early coordination is completed to consider the initial range of alternatives. During the 60 day review period a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting is held to help identify community issues of concern.

Preliminary alternatives analysis and screening

The study area, purpose and need, and preliminary alternatives are revised based on input from coordinating agencies and the public. Analysis of the wide range of preliminary alternatives determines any that are not reasonable due to fundamental engineering flaws, fundamental safety flaws, fundamental environmental flaws, or failure to meet the purpose and need. Alternatives are screened down to reasonable ones for further analysis and distributed to coordinating agencies for another 60 day comment period. Based on all comments received, the lead agencies determine which alternatives are retained for further study.

Completion of EA

The FHWA-Indiana CE/EA form must be completed and two copies submitted to INDOT. Following INDOT's satisfactory review, the documentation will be submitted to FHWA. Public involvement requirements must be met following FHWA's signature.

If it has been determined the project *will not* have significant impacts, a request for a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) should be submitted to INDOT. Included in the FONSI request is the final Section 106 documentation, the public hearing transcript, copies of any comments received and any responses, and a compilation of all mitigation commitments including Section 106. FHWA will review the documentation supplied by INDOT and prepare the FONSI, if appropriate. FHWA will provide INDOT with the FONSI for distribution. SPMS is then updated after distribution to show the project was an EA and the date the FONSI was issued.

If it has been determined the project *will* have significant impacts, a FONSI cannot be issued and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is required.

See <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/indiv/ceeaform.htm> for entire FHWA-Indiana CE/EA form.